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QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, INCLUDING PALESTINE

Letter dated 21 December 1992 from the Permanent Observer for Palestine to the United Nations and other international organizations at Geneva addressed to the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights

Following the crime of the deportation of 418 Palestinians on 17 December 1992, the Israeli military forces opened fire with machine guns on Saturday, 19 December 1992 against Palestinian civilians in Khan Younis and Al-Arroub, killing 7 of them and injuring over 40 others.

These crimes were perpetrated while all the Occupied Palestinian Territories were under curfew and also considered by the Israeli occupation authorities as a closed military zone, since more than 10 days ago.

With this new mass killing against the Palestinian people, the Israeli authorities violated article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as well as article 3 of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949.

This new mass killing was perpetrated at the same time when the Security Council was adopting a resolution condemning the deportation of the Palestinians by the Israeli authorities, and urging Israel to allow forthwith the deportees to go back to their homeland.

These practices show, once again, the real face of the Israeli Government under the leadership of Yitzhak Rabin, and reflect the real stand of the Israeli Government against genuine peace and against the peace process supported by international public opinion.

We draw the attention of international public opinion and of the international community to the fact that the policy of Yitzhak Rabin based on the deportation of the Palestinians as well as on the mass killing of our Palestinian people will not affect their intifadah under the Israeli occupation.

Before this new deterioration of the situation, we kindly request you to act with the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights and intervene to urge Israel to put an immediate end to such practices violating the provisions of international law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We finally request you to consider the present memorandum as an official document of the forty-ninth session of the Commission on Human Rights.

(Signed): Nabil Ramlawi
Permanent Observer for
Palestine